



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Philadelphia District

## **PROJECT FACTSHEET**

### **Southeast Pa. Environmental Improvements Program Philadelphia Water Department**

April 2007

---

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS:** Reps. Brady (PA-1), Fattah (PA-2), Schwartz (PA-13)

**APPROPRIATION / PHASE:**  
Construction, General

**BUSINESS PROGRAM:**  
Environmental Infrastructure

**AUTHORITY:** Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1996

**LOCATION:** Authority allows for projects within the Pennsylvania Counties of Philadelphia, Bucks, Montgomery, Chester, and Delaware. See individual projects for specific location.

**DESCRIPTION:** Section 566 of WRDA 96 established a pilot program to provide design and construction assistance for water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects for non-Federal interests in Southeastern Pennsylvania. The process consists of three phases: (1) Project Approval - preparation and approval of an Initial Appraisal Report; (2) Project Design - negotiation and execution of a Design Agreement between Federal and Non-Federal interests and the design of the project; and finally (3) Project Construction - negotiation and execution of a Project Cooperation Agreement and construction of the project.

**OVERALL STATUS:** In FY05, the Corps and Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) visited Mill Creek and several sites along Cobbs Creek. These site investigations identified four (4) projects – (1) Mill Creek Flood Control Project, (2) the Cobbs Creek Habitat Restoration Project, (3) the Cobbs Creek Fish Passage Restoration Project, and (4) the Indian Creek Reconstruction Project.

In FY06, funds totaling \$594,000 were allocated with \$300,000 for the three Cobbs Creek projects and \$294,000 for an additional project – (5) Tacony Creek. No funds were appropriated for Mill Creek.

#### **Mill Creek Flood Control Project**

- **Description:** The proposed project is to divert the stream flow generated in Montgomery County from the combined sewer by constructing an alternate channel to either the Schuylkill River via City Line Avenue or to the East Branch of Indian Creek. The East Branch route is much shorter but would require crossing the SEPTA/AMTRAK double tracks. Diverting the flows from the combined sewer to the East Branch will increase flows in the creek. These flows will need to be investigated, and this alternative would require additional real estate. The Schuylkill River alternative will require about 2.7 miles of large box culverts under City Line and would be relatively expensive. Although real estate is not an issue, existing utilities and the logistics of construction along a heavily traveled highway

## Southeast Pa. Environmental Improvements Program, PWD *(continued)*

need to be considered. The possibility of detaining runoff in Montgomery County will also be investigated.

- Status:** An Initial Appraisal Report was prepared and approved by higher authority. USACE and PWD have agreed on the Design Agreement language for the project. A Design Agreement Package has been approved by NAD and forwarded to HQ for final approval. Final approval is pending. To date, \$10,000 has been spent on the Initial Appraisal Report, and \$8,000 appropriated for the Design Agreement.

### FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	Fed	Non-Fed	Total
Initial Appraisal Report	10	0	0
Design Agreement	8		
Alternative Evaluation Report	1,125	375	1,500
Plans & Specifications *	2,250	750	3,000
Construction	15,000	5,000	20,000

\* P&S initially fully federally funded, then reimbursed by sponsor at construction

### BUDGET

DATA (\$000)	Comments
Thru FY 05	18
FY 06	0

## Cobbs Creek Habitat Restoration Project

- Description:** Urbanization of the Cobbs Creek watershed has resulted in degradation of the stream and adjacent habitat. More specifically, urban stormwater runoff and combined sewer overflows have eroded the banks and altered the stream alignment. The purpose of the Cobbs Creek Habitat Restoration Project is to design and construct an approximately 1.2 mile channel restoration project from Millbourne Dam downstream to Marshall Road, to meet a small (about 1000ft) restoration project PWD completed in 2005.
- Status:** An Initial Appraisal Report was prepared and approved by higher authority. Currently, USACE and PWD are negotiating a Design Agreement for the project. A draft agreement should be executed in FY07. Establishment and monitoring of a "Reference Reach" (a section of the stream that is working environmentally and hydraulically that is used as a standard for the design of the stream restoration) on the creek will take up much of FY07. Habitat restoration would occur in late FY07 into FY08. To date, \$10,000 has been spent on the Initial Appraisal Report, and \$8,000 has been appropriated for the Design Agreement.

### FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	Fed	Non-Fed	Total
Initial Appraisal Report	10	0	0
Design Agreement	8	0	0
Plans & Specifications *	450	150	600

### BUDGET

DATA (\$000)	Comments
Thru FY 05	18
FY 06	0

## Southeast Pa. Environmental Improvements Program, PWD *(continued)*

Construction	3,337	1,113	4,450
--------------	-------	-------	-------

\* P&S initially fully federally funded, then reimbursed by sponsor at construction

### Cobbs Creek Fish Passage Restoration Project

- Description:** Fish passage can be restored on Cobbs Creek by modifying two small dams. The lower dam, Woodland Dam, located close to the Cobbs Creek Parkway and Woodland Avenue, is the first impediment to fish passage on Cobbs Creek. It is a low concrete structure below which the creek is tidal. The upper dam, Millbourne Dam, situated on Cobbs Creek near 65th and Race Streets is a rock structure. Both dams are owned by the City of Philadelphia's Fairmont Park Commission. The purpose of the Cobbs Creek Fish Passage Restoration Project is to investigate, select, and construct the best alternative to reestablish fish passage on Cobbs Creek. The most effective method of restoring fish passage is to eliminate the obstructions by removing the dams. If it is concluded that either or both dams are of significant cultural value and cannot be removed, breached, or notched, other methods, such as stone fills downstream of the dams or fish ladders, will need to be investigated.
- Status:** An Initial Appraisal Report was prepared and approved by higher authority. Currently, USACE and PWD are negotiating a Design Agreement for the project. A draft agreement should be executed in FY 07. Coordination with the various regulating agencies (USFWS, cultural agencies, etc) and initial design will take up most of FY07, with construction in FY07 – FY08. To date, \$10,000 has been spent on the Initial Appraisal Report, and \$8,000 has been appropriated for the Design Agreement.

#### FINANCIAL

##### DATA (\$000)

	Fed	Non-Fed	Total
Initial Appraisal Report	10	0	0
Design Agreement	8	0	0
Report	75	25	100
Plans & Specifications	450	150	600
*			
Construction	1,687	563	2,250

\* P&S initially fully federally funded, then reimbursed by sponsor at construction

#### BUDGET

##### DATA (\$000)

	Comments
Thru FY 05	18
FY 06	0

### Indian Creek Reconstruction Project

- Description:** Indian Creek is a tributary to Cobbs Creek. Sometime in the late 1800's or early 1900's, the City of Philadelphia enclosed a portion of the West Branch of Indian Creek in a combined sewer. During storm events, the combined sewer is overwhelmed resulting in overflows that dump raw sewage into Indian Creek and ultimately Cobbs Creek. Also, urbanization of the watershed has increased the storm flows that fill the sewer with sediment and debris leading to frequent flooding of the area during even minor storm events. The West Branch of Indian Creek enters a combined sewer system upstream of City owned tennis

## Southeast Pa. Environmental Improvements Program, PWD *(continued)*

courts in Morris Park, between Brockton and Ruskin Roads. The proposed Indian Creek Reconstruction Project is to design and construct a new stream channel to the East Branch of Indian Creek that bypasses the sewer system. This will remove the flow from the West Branch of Indian Creek from the combined sewer thereby greatly reducing sewer overflow events, decreasing flooding of the park by providing an alternate route for the water, and restoring the stream to a more natural state which will improve habitat in the area. Approximately 650ft to 1000ft of channel, including pools and riffles, would have to be constructed.

- Status:** An Initial Appraisal Report was prepared and approved by higher authority. Currently, USACE and PWD are negotiating a Design Agreement for the project. A draft agreement should be executed FY 07. Design and construction could be completed in FY07. PWD may elect to design and construct this project themselves. To date, \$10,000 has been spent on the Initial Appraisal Report, and \$8,000 has been appropriated for the Design Agreement.

### FINANCIAL

DATA (\$000)	Fed	Non-Fed	Total
Initial Appraisal Report	10	0	0
Design Agreement	8		
Plans & Specifications *	300	100	400
Construction	1,687	563	2,225

\* P&S initially fully federally funded, then reimbursed by sponsor at construction

### BUDGET

DATA (\$000)	Comments
Thru FY 05	18
FY 06	0

## Tacony Creek Project

- Description:** The project, located in the Tacony-Frankford Watershed in Pennsylvania's 1st Congressional District, is to investigate the feasibility and prepare the design for a 60 million gallon storage facility that would reduce average annual combined sewer discharges by approximately 600 million gallons per year.
- Status:** An Initial Appraisal Report has been approved by higher authority. Preparation of the Draft Design Agreement will begin in April 2007.

### FINANCIAL

DATA (\$000)	Fed	Non-Fed	Total
Initial Appraisal Report	10	0	0
Design Agreement	8		
Feasibility Report	750	250	1,000
Plans & Specifications *	2,250	750	3,000
Construction	225,000	75,000	300,000

### BUDGET

DATA (\$000)	Comments
Thru FY 05	0
FY 06	18

## **Southeast Pa. Environmental Improvements Program, PWD** *(continued)*

\* P&S initially fully federally funded, then reimbursed by sponsor at construction

**SPONSOR:** Philadelphia Water Department

**COMMENTS:** Each project must have an environmental assessment done prior to construction.

**STUDY MANAGER:** Don Martinelli  
(215) 656-6589  
[don.r.martinelli@usace.army.mil](mailto:don.r.martinelli@usace.army.mil)